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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/668,564 | DAWE, JULIE T. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Cheukfan Lee | 2622 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 9, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4-17, 21, 22, and 26-29, now renumbered 1-6, 14, 7-13, and 15-22, respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

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|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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Cheukfan Lee

1. All pending claims 1, 2, 4-17, 21, 22, and 26-29 are allowed. Claims 1, 8, 16, and 21 are independent.

It is noted that claim 4 was inadvertently omitted in the previous Office action mailed May 24, 2004. Claim 4 depends on allowed claim 1 and should be allowed in the previous Office action.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 was allowed and the reason for allowance was given in the previous Office action and is repeated here below.

Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record because the closest prior art Kawai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,043,866) or Stange (U.S. Patent No. 4,078,786) does not disclose that the layout area of the template includes a recessed area in combination with other limitations of claim 1. Claims 2, 4-7, and 9-15 depend upon claim 1.

Claims 8 and 16 were allowed in the previous Office action. The reasons for allowance are repeated below.

Claim 8 is allowable over the prior art of record because the closest prior art Kawai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,043,866) does not disclose a combination of the layout template the backing member and the transparent cover. In the withdrawn rejections addressed in the Final Action dated March 10, 2004, the transparent sheet (2) reads on the backing member in one claim or on the transparent cover in another claim but does

not meet both the backing member and the transparent member when both are in the same claim which is claim 8.

Claims 16 and 17 are allowable because the closest prior art of record Kawai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,043,866) does not disclose an aperture grille operatably associated with the backing member that defines a layout area which accommodates at least one object that is to be contained in a greeting card, the aperture grille including at least one opening therein, in combination with other limitations of claim 16. The template of Kawai et al. is not an aperture grille. Claim 17 depends upon claim 16.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to include allowable subject matter of claim 25, now canceled. Claim 21 is allowable over the closest prior art of record, Kawai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,043,866), because the lower sheet (opaque sheet1) (layout template) of Kawai et al. does not define any opening therein, the claimed opening defining the at least one layout area. Claims 22 and 26-29 depend upon claim 21.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (703) 305-4867. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
Jan. 18, 2005



Cheukfan Lee